

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009***

Present: Selectmen Wes Moore, Michael Woodworth and Rosanne Gilbert. Others present included Police Chief Reed, Lt. Gould, Sue McKinnon, Fire Chief Jeff Buxton, Jim Ouellet, and Nancy Spencer.

Call to order: 6:34pm by Wes Moore.

Chief Reed has completed and submitted the report to FEMA for reimbursement of funds expended during the December 2008 ice storm. The federal government is expected to pay 75% of the expenses and the state may pay 12 ½% of the expenses.

The Hazardous Mitigation Plan has been conditionally approved. A public hearing must be held before final approval is granted. The Selectmen will review the plan and have the Town Planner do the same. A public hearing will be held at 7:00pm on March 31st, 2009 at the Town Hall.

Sue McKinnon advised that there is a typo error on the ballot. The Selectmen gave her permission to make the correction by hand and initial it on each ballot.

Sue is going to the State House next week for a hearing on a proposal to allow automobile dealers to issue and renew registrations. The proposal would allow the towns where the dealers are located to collect the fees. This would drastically reduce the fees collected by Newfields. Sue was asked to write a letter for the Selectmen to sign objecting to this. She will personally deliver the letter to the State House.

A complaint was received about trees being cut down where a crane was located. The Selectmen looked at the town map to determine if the crane was located in a watershed protected area and it appears that it was not. Michael drove by the area and the crane was gone.

Jim Ouellet met with the Selectmen and Fire Chief Buxton to give an update on 34 Railroad Avenue. He cannot make the required changes to the building financially and is asking that he be given until the end of March to vacate the building. The landlord has been notified of Jim's intention. Chief Buxton does not have a problem with the extension, but asks that a vacate date be set. He and the Selectmen agreed on a vacate date of March 31st, 2009. Jim thanked the Board for their patience.

Chief Buxton asked that the landscaping company stop mowing the Fire Station area this year. The firefighters are willing to do the lawn mowing and maintenance. The fire department will use the landscaping funds for training instead.

The Fire Association re-modeled the upstairs of the fire house. They completely stripped and re-built the area properly. There is a new kitchen along with counters and appliances. The changes make the fire house much more comfortable for the firemen. All of this work was completed at zero cost to the Town – the Association paid roughly \$23,000. for the renovations.

The oil tanks at the Town Hall ran out of oil last weekend. Rosanne was in touch with Flynn's Oil and they delivered oil and re-started the furnaces. The Town is on automatic delivery every other week, but Flynn's missed a delivery.

Checks were signed.

Officer Stephen Petroski's appointment to the Police Department was signed.

Correspondence from the Rockingham Economic Development Corporation was reviewed and will be given to Clay Mitchell. Wes will handle the correspondence from CRSW/RRC.

Reimbursements were reviewed and determined to be proper.

Correspondence from Litter-Free New Hampshire will be given to Chief Reed and the Garden Club.

The notice of the 16th Annual Spring Planning and Zoning Conference was read. It will be passed on to the Planning Board.

Nancy Spencer was given permission to attend the ADS User Conference in May.

A notice in the *Friends of the Public Library of Newfields* flyer contained an article about an Open House at the old post office building which was discussed. The Selectmen do not recall granting permission for this. Wes will contact Main Street Art to discuss this and let the group know that they must provide a Certificate of Insurance to the Town in order to hold the Open House.

Marie Poole, the owner of 34 Railroad Avenue has asked the Town for a Certificate of Indemnity on the land she owns near the Town Landing where she allows public parking. The Town's insurance company stated that the Town should be requesting a Certificate of Insurance from Marie Poole and not the other way around. The insurance company also recommended that the Town stop mowing the privately owned parking area. The Selectmen unanimously agreed to stop mowing that area.

Sue informed the Selectmen that the shredder in the Town Office stopped working. She was given permission to purchase another shredder.

Jacob Randlett of Boy Scout Troop 190 – Newfields is getting ready to complete his Eagle Project. He will fundraise, manage the project, and be on-site during the work. He suggested a project at the Bald Hill Cemetery fixing the gates, clearing debris, mapping the cemetery, and identifying all of the graves. Another was to build a handicap ramp at the library. The final suggestion was to re-finish the floor in the Town Hall, turn over the soil surrounding the Hall and re-seed the grass, and clean up the parking lot – getting rid of the brush, etc.

Jacob will choose the project to complete and submit his proposal including the fundraising to the Boy Scouts for approval. He believes that the Town Hall project would be his best choice. He will keep the Selectmen informed.

Rosanne made a motion to accept the Abatement Application for the Batemans. Michael seconded the motion which passed with all in favor. The application was then signed.

Rosanne made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 17th, 2009 meeting as written. Michael seconded the motion which passed with both in favor. Wes did not vote as he did not attend that meeting.

At 8:06pm the meeting went into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 III. The meeting returned to a public session at 8:10pm.

Silver Star Families of America wants to honor our wounded military veterans on May 1, 2009 and asks that the Town send a proclamation to them. After discussion, the Selectmen agreed to do this.

Rosanne made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. Wes seconded the motion which passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer
Administrative Assistant